

Top o' the Heap

Despite loss, Bearcat Men's Basketball remains No. 1 in the nation.

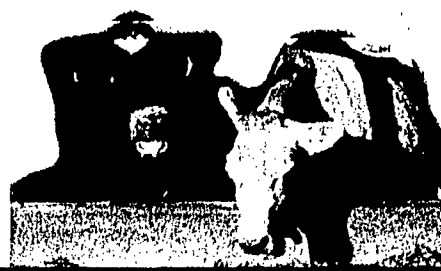
SEE COMPLETE COVERAGE IN SPORTS, PAGE B1



Bovine Intervention:

Don't have a cow about mad cow...

FEATURES
PAGE 6A



He's the man!

FIND OUT WHY,
SEE OPINION
PAGE 4A



Regents continue Merger talks

Two-day retreat marks start of intensive discussion

By JANEA PHILIP
UNIVERSITY NEWS EDITOR

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The Northwest Board of Regents discussed the Baldrige award and reviewed the contract for the UM merger for the first time during their two-day re-

treat at the Marriott Hotel.

"If you read the feedback report carefully, it's really remarkable," President Dean Hubbard said about the Baldrige award.

The Baldrige feedback report consisted of a 30-page evaluation of the University and their various academic systems.

After reviewing the feedback from the judges, Hubbard and student Regent Paul Klute designed strategic initiatives to im-

prove the quality of the University.

"These items are basically key themes we found when reading the feedback report," Klute said. "We targeted those that came up at least two times within the report."

The plan for 2004 is to emphasize a more systematic approach of knowledge sharing.

(Please see 'Regents' page 5A)

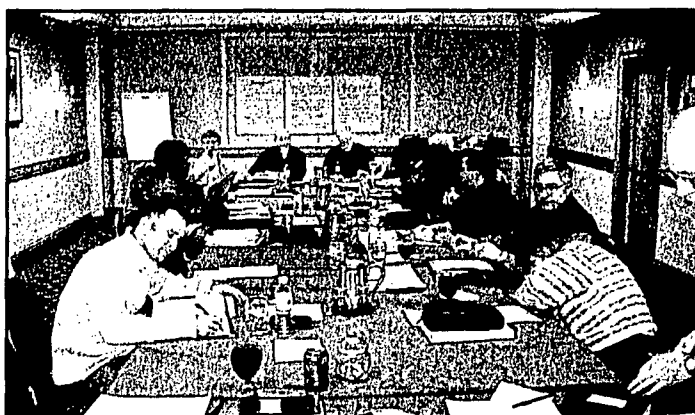


PHOTO BY JANEA PHILIP/UNIVERSITY NEWS EDITOR
Members of the Northwest Board of Regents and President Dean Hubbard's cabinet discuss developments in the possible merger with the University of Missouri System. Decisions for the direction of the merger will be announced in two weeks.

Staff changes, dean searches mark new year

Colleges, University Relations still seeking permanent replacements, Academy finds dean

By PETE GUTSCHENRITTER
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

As the spring trimester begins to take form, two Northwest colleges are still looking for permanent deans, while the Missouri Academy is waiting on theirs.

The University Relations office is also waiting for two spots to permanently fill.

But with potential budget cuts looming and an in-depth national search in place for the positions, nothing has happened.

Both Ron DeYoung, dean of the Booth College of Business and Professional Studies, and Frank Veeman, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, have stayed on longer than planned.

As the University looks for a new vice president of University Relations, Angel Lewis, assistant to the president, has also taken on more responsibility since the resignation of Tom Vansaghi. Northwest alumna Jamie Robinette is also coming onto the University Relations staff as a media relations specialist.

"A year ago I decided it was time to have someone else have this fun," DeYoung said about his job status.

But last fall, Provost Taylor Barnes convinced DeYoung to stay on another year while they looked for a replacement.

"I had planned on becoming a full-time professor (in the fall of 2003)," DeYoung said. "I wasn't running away from anything. I still enjoy it, and I said I would stay another year."

The business and professional studies dean position was advertised Jan. 3 and the posting close-out will be in early February, Barnes said.

"Even though it's early (in the search), we're getting a good response," Barnes said. "We have a rich pool of candidates for both positions."

Barnes said a selection should be made by spring break.

Veeman, in his second year with the interim tag, worked with the University Consortium before becoming dean.

"(Barnes) said he needed an interim for a year," Veeman said, "then he asked me if I would stay on another year with the timing of budget problems."

The arts and science dean position was posted in November and closed in early January, Barnes said.

"If the review goes well, we could have a visit (from the candidate) in February, and we hope to have a decision in March," Barnes said.

One position that has been permanently filled is the dean of the Missouri Academy. Cleo Samudzi, senior associate on the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education, will take over Feb. 1.

"From the time I saw the ad in *(The Chronicle for Higher Education)*, I responded and they invited me for an interview," Samudzi said. "The interview went really well, and the negotiations went well."

Even though Samudzi was a biochemistry faculty member at the University

(Please see "Hirings" page 5A)

A Void of

The New Year's Day death of Northwest freshman Ben Scherer reflects true dangers of drug and alcohol

By BETSY LEE
FEATURES EDITOR

It was Dec. 31, and like many college students, Ben Scherer was out for a good time. He met a girl, threw back a few beers and took a shot of vodka. Then at 4:30 a.m., with alcohol coursing through his system, he picked up a gun.

Ben's life ended on Jan. 1. He died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest. His mother, Lisa Scherer, says the accident, one that could have happened had her son been of legal age.

"Even casual use (of alcohol) can hurt," Lisa said. "The majority of kids who get into trouble with alcohol do it only once. Ben is an example of this."

Mark Scherer, Ben's father, says his son's death was a horrible, senseless accident. He wrote a memorial letter to his son, which he read at the funeral.

"We know with 100 percent certainty that you did NOT take your own life," he wrote. "If you had, we would forgive you and grieve for you with the same intensity that we feel for you."

Mark said close family members had no indication that Ben was contemplating suicide.

"There were no warning signs," Mark said. "I don't believe that he would do something like this."

According to Lisa, she talked to Ben the night before he died and said he was going to bed. When she discovered Ben's body the next day, he was barely breathing. He died at the age of 21. Lisa believes that alcohol grossly impaired his judgment, causing him to mishandle the weapon.

"Maybe he didn't know it was loaded or that the clip was in," Lisa said. "Alcohol is a depressant. It hampers your judgement and slows your reaction time."

Some of Ben's writings indicate his sentiments about alcohol

(Please see "Void" page 5A)



During the last year of his life, Ben Scherer, a freshman at Northwest Missouri State University, was dealing with the death of his son Ben, a Northwest freshman who died while under the influence of alcohol.

By the Numbers

5.5

number of dollars in billions spent on alcohol by students each year

7

number in millions of 12 to 20 year olds that are binge drinkers

10,000

number of people age 12 to 24 that are killed annually in alcohol-related incidents

18

percentage of college students that are heavy drinkers

55

percentage of all arrests that involve alcohol

Source: Narconon, and Crossing Recovery Center

Northwest men seize top spot in nation

By BILL KNUST
SENIOR REPORTER

When the NABC/Division II Bulletin National Rankings came out Tuesday, a new face held down the No. 1 spot. For the first time

in school history Northwest Missouri State University was printed at the top.

With a 13-1 record the 'Cats moved from their previous spot at No. 4 to No. 1 after six of the top seven teams

lost since the last ratings came out Dec. 23.

"I think more than anything it is accomplishing something that hasn't been accomplished here yet," men's head coach Steve Tappmeyer said on the importance of the ranking.

"We've been pretty consistent over past six to eight years of being nationally ranked, but we've never reached this point. So, it is nice from that standpoint, but we have to keep it focused because we are only to the half way

point." The 'Cats previous high rating was in 1983-84 and 2001-02 when they reached No. 3 in the country. In 1983-84 the 'Cats finished 24-7. (Please see "Northwest" page 5A)

Forward Keenan Weir takes a shot against Washburn Wednesday night. The No. 1 Bearcats fell to Washburn 72-63.

PHOTO BY COLEY YOUNG/
SPORTS EDITOR



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Online poll:

How do you think the men's basketball team will round out the season?
a. They'll win it all. National Championship, baby!
b. They'll win the MIAA
c. Baska-what? When's football start?
d. A losing season. It's all downhill from here

Scholarship aids out-of-state students

By SARAH SWEDBERG
CHIEF REPORTER

Northwest biology and psychology double major Erin Luebbert is from Nebraska and has maintained a 3.67 grade point average. That qualifies her for the new Non-Resident award with her Midwest Student Exchange Scholarship.

But there is one problem. She will be a junior in the fall of 2004, and only out-of-state incoming freshman and transfer students are eligible for the scholarship.

"I understand the need to attract new

students," Luebbert said. "But it's a disadvantage for current students."

Financial assistance and scholarships director Del Morley said a common question about the new Non-Resident award is that of why current out-of-state students are not eligible for the scholarship.

"The reason is, it has to be a self-funding program," Morley said. "In other words, we have to get a certain number of additional out-of-state students to fund this program to pay for it."

Morley said the average incoming freshman class is approximately 1,200

students. Attracting 50 more students to Northwest each year would help fund the scholarship.

"We are taking a risk with this scholarship," Morley said. "Our numbers of out-of-state students have dropped the past few years, and we've worked a number of years to try and find a way to increase that number."

The Non-Resident award will allow out-of-state students to pay in-state tuition. The total value of the Non-Resident award is \$3,510.

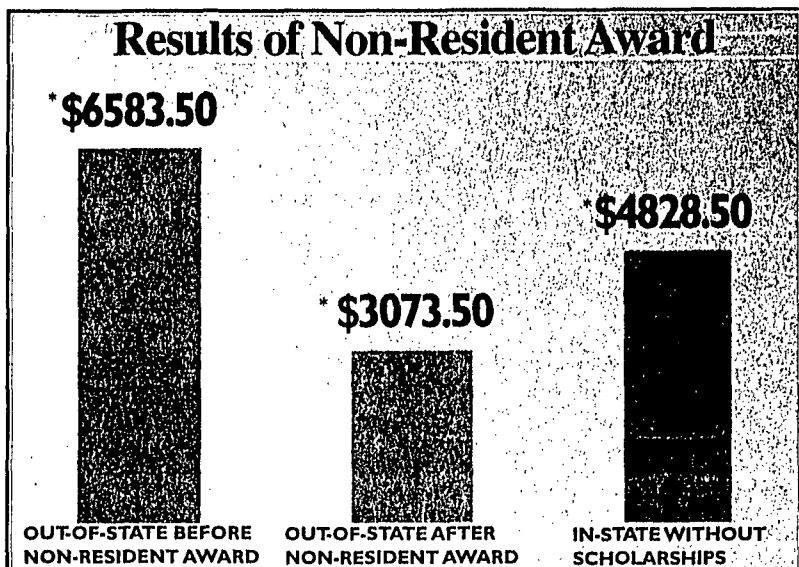
Jeremy Waldeier, associate director of admissions, said when prospective students and their families visit campus,

they are excited to learn about the Non-Resident award and its benefits.

"We have received numerous emails and phone calls from interested students and parents," Waldeier said. "We believe the Non-Resident award will attract more out-of-state students to Northwest by rewarding them for their academic achievements."

Along with the 3.0 GPA, incoming freshman and transfer students will have to complete 24 credit hours by the end of their first year.

"It's a major incentive and attraction," Morley said. "We wish we could offer it to current students."



GRAPHIC BY PHIL REINKING/DESIGN DIRECTOR

Enrollment increases for GIS Online Master's Degree

By SARAH SWEDBERG
CHIEF REPORTER

Most people clear their weekends for leisure and family time, but for Maryville resident Dean Burgher, the time is used to work on his online master's degree in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Burgher decided to get his master's degree because he needs the GIS knowledge for Computer Aided Drafting Systems as a civil engineer at Snyder and Associates.

"Geographic Information Systems is becoming more and more a part of civil engineering," Burgher said. "Because I will be pretty involved in Geographic Information Systems in the future, having my master's will make me marketable."

Burgher said professionals like himself who work in land-based or human-based resources careers, such as civil engineering would benefit from the online master's degree in GIS.

"If you've got the time, I definitely suggest it," Burgher said.

Assistant professor of geography Patricia Drews said she believes its the first online master's program of its kind in GIS in the United States.

Launched in fall 2003, the program's inaugural class of 20 has expanded to 45 students and counting.

"The program is growing rapidly," Drews said. "There is such a demand for this type of graduate education."

Drews said more class sections have been added to the courses being taught this trimester to cover the high demand.

She also said six new courses will be added to the program within the next year.

"We need to continue to offer more courses to keep students moving through the program, so that they can complete the program in two and a half to three years," Drews said.

The online master's degree in GIS began last fall with two courses offered. Two more were added this trimester. In the future, a total of 10 courses will allow students to complete the GIS master's degree.

Students wanting a master's degree in GIS must complete 32 credit hours and a thesis. Students can also receive a Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Services.

Drews said most students enrolled in Northwest's online master's degree programs have a full-time job and are seeking education to gain expertise to move up in a career.

"They don't have to quit their job or move somewhere else to go to school to get their master's degree," Drews said.

Conference in Denver teaches faith to thousands

By JANEA PHILIP
UNIVERSITY NEWS EDITOR

On Jan. 2-7, Northwest's Campus Crusade for Christ piled 63 students into 15 cars and drove to the Denver Christmas Conference of 2004 for Christian fellowship.

Campus Crusade for Christ International constructed the conference for the Midwest region of the United States. A total of 3,000 students from Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, New Mexico and Colorado participated in the conference.

The conference consisted of a series of speakers educating students about their Christian faith.

"The conference allowed you to grow and learn more about your faith and Him," Northwest sophomore Rachel Chase said.

Northwest senior Danny Burns par-

ticipated in the conference to improve his relationship with God.

"I had gotten to the point that I was stagnant with my relationship with Christ and it gave me the opportunity to re-energize that relationship," Burns said.

Doudna and Burns have been steady members of Campus Crusade for Christ since their freshman year at Northwest. When they started, there were only 40 participants. The organization currently has 300 members who attend weekly sessions to discuss Christianity.

"It's about turning a lot of students into soul winning laborers for the Lord," Northwest senior Jason Pinder said. "It has been neat to watch it grow."

Students interested in joining Campus Crusade for Christ can visit their meetings on Thursdays at 9 p.m. in 3500 Golden Hall or visit their Web site at www.crukc.org/bearcats.



Northwest students Brad Sparks, Mandy Umscheid, Skylar Rolf and Jeana Larsen raise their hands to praise the Lord at the Denver Christmas Conference in Denver. Northwest's crusade brought 63 people to the conference Jan. 2-7.

University Events

- Thurs. 15**
- Peer Education meetings/training
 - IM pool tournament entries due; noon
 - IM basketball shooting contests, 7:30 p.m.
 - Karaoke Night, 10:00 p.m., Union Ballroom
- Fri. 16**
- Last date for 100% refund for dropped trimester course or withdrawal
 - Last date for 75% refund for first block drop or withdrawal
- Sat. 17**
- Four-State Honor Music Festival
 - Womens basketball at Pittsburg State, 5:30 p.m., Pittsburg, KS
 - Mens basketball at Pittsburg State, 7:30 p.m., Pittsburg, KS
- Sun. 18**
- Sunday Night Church, 9:00 p.m., Union Ballroom
- Mon. 19**
- IM basketball officials meeting, 3:30 p.m., Martindale 102
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no classes
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Day
- Tues. 20**
- IM pool tournament, 6:30 p.m.
 - IM 5 on 5 basketball entries due; noon
- Wed. 21**
- IM 5 on 5 basketball meeting, 3:30 p.m., Martindale 102

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Residents challenge smoking regulation

By AARON BAILEY
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

The first official public objection to Maryville's smoking ban in restaurants came with the presentation of a petition to the Maryville City Council Monday.

Maryville resident Terry Garnett gathered more than 900 signatures of area residents denouncing the ban. The petition claims the ban is "unconstitutional" and negatively affects Maryville restaurants.

"We'd like to have (the Council) re-evaluate the ordinance," Garnett said Wednesday. "The choice for patrons to smoke should be up to the business owners. (The Council) is always talking about helping Maryville's economy, this is like cutting your own throat in a sense."

Mayor Ron Moss said that Missouri's Clean Air Act remains unchallenged. Moss told Garnett the Council would review the petition.

According to assistant City Manager Matt Unrein, since Maryville is a third-class city, it has no legal obligation to act on the petition.

"Anytime citizens feel strongly enough to write their name down in democratic protest, it's important that it's taken seriously," Unrein said. "But we don't have any obligation to do anything."

Since the ban was implemented June 9, Del Simmons, owner of Simmons Village Restaurant and Deli in downtown Maryville, said he has lost thousands of dollars in potential income.

"I'm losing \$85 to \$90 a day, and that's quite a bit a month," Simmons said. "If the bars that serve food can allow smoking, I'd like an exception."

Ancient art arrives in Maryville

By JESSICA SWARTZ
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

As calming music played in the background, William Waters' wry humor and charismatic demeanor held the attention of his new students.

T'ai Chi Ch'uan made its debut at the Maryville Community Center Monday night. T'ai Chi, as it is commonly referred to, is a form of Chinese martial arts.

The basic element of T'ai Chi is improving yourself internally by using your spiritual energy and focusing on relaxation, meditation and breathing

habits. The study is based upon the ancient Chinese manuscript "I Ching," one of the oldest books in print.

Waters has studied the art of T'ai Chi since 1986. Prior to that, he participated in Karate, Hap Kido and Kempo.

Although he's long since mastered T'ai Chi, it's more than just a practice to Waters.

"It permeates your whole life," Waters said. "The experience has been profound. It is everywhere; everything."

Studying T'ai Chi has led Waters to a new outlook on life.

"It's about defusing a situation be-

fore it becomes a conflict," Waters said.

Waters has been in several situations that could have become violent, but relying upon his studies was able to resolve them in such a way that the other person went away feeling good about themselves, he said.

Although classes have been held at the Northwest Technical School, Waters now expands his area of teaching and will offer the class every Monday and Wednesday.

Janice DeFreese, a long-time participant of this class, had a definite opinion of their teacher.

"He is the best. He really is," DeFreese said.

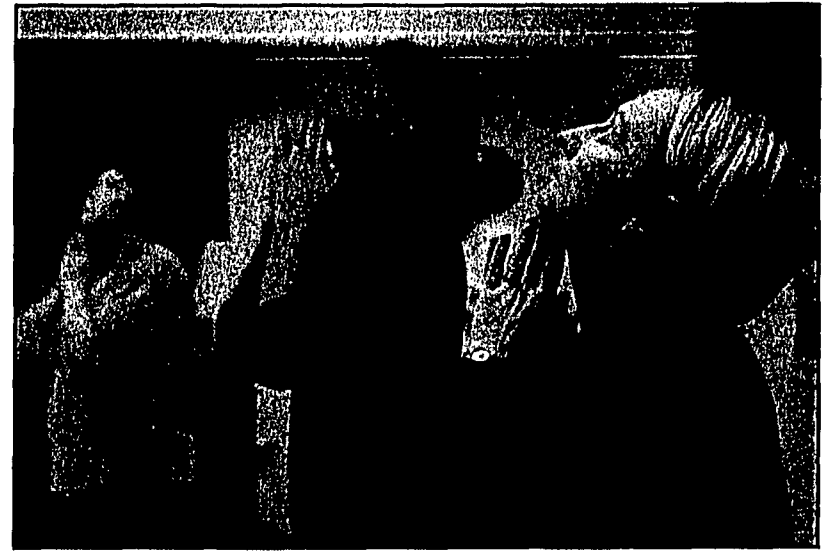


PHOTO BY NIKI CARDER/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robin Chesnut participates in a traditional Tai Chi Chuan method for stretching the front neck muscles. "I've seen the benefits of Tai Chi in China and how they live in a hectic and busy world and they're still healthy," Chesnut said.

Applebee's set to open in upcoming weeks

By AARON BAILEY
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

After months of anticipation and speculation, Applebee's will open its doors to the public in mid-February.

According to Michael Carpenter, director of marketing and

communications for Applebee's, the restaurant is on schedule according to Todd Norris, Crosslands construction project superintendent.

"We had some weather issues, but everyone's done a great job to get this done," Norris said. "It's been smooth."

Carpenter said choosing

"We look for prospering, thriving communities that show favorable demographics and growing populations. Maryville has been on our radar screen for some time now."

MICHAEL CARPENTER

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION
FOR CONCORD NEIGHBORHOOD CORPORATION

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Our View Dean for President

In a year of pledges and promises by candidates for the democratic nod, the straightest shooter shows the most promise.

When charting the run of former President George H.W. Bush and President George W. Bush in Washington, D.C., the book, "American Dynasty," sums it up—or so they think.

However, we at *The Missourian* would like to see former Vermont Governor Howard Dean challenge Bush as the Democratic candidate.

And as the Jan. 19 caucus in Iowa kicks off the race to see who challenges Bush in the November election, we see Dean as the best choice.

Sure, Dean has taken a lot of heat for his comments about "people who drive pickup trucks sporting confederate flags," but as we see it, his positive aspects outweigh the negative.

For one, Dean stays true to his Washington outsider themes. He continues to tell Iowa caucus-goers that Washington needs someone outside of Washington.

And he's absolutely right. Although the winner of the primary will have their hands full convincing the general electorate voters, we feel Dean has a better chance than his Democratic competitors do.

All of Dean's closest opponents—North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt—are all currently in Congress and have spent an average of 17 years in Washington.

All of his opponents are quick to criticize Dean for his changing stances on certain issues and his icy, almost anti-social ways with dealing with people.

But we at *The Missourian* applaud the way he has handled the criticism. His work ethic is also noteworthy, and that's exactly what the new Washington needs: someone who will work for the people.

Before becoming governor, Dean was a physician. And just like a physician, Dean adjusts to the "diagnosis." While his critics say he changes his stance, we at *The Missourian* are quick to point out situations change from year to year. For example, in 1995 he went from opposing to supporting a program to supply needles to addicts. The end result was the program helped prevent AIDS and did not encourage addiction.

The numbers don't lie. Ninety-two percent of all Vermont had healthcare, while 96 percent of all children were provided adequate healthcare. During his nine years as governor of Vermont, Dean was able to keep a balanced budget, albeit an unorthodox style of doing it.

Sure, Dean raised taxes for Vermont citizens. As our current president apparently doesn't know, this must occur in order to balance a budget. Yet, once the budget was balanced, Dean not only reduced tax rates to what they once were, but he actually lowered taxes for the middle class.

More importantly, college-aged voters need to stand up and take notice as the results of the primary and the election in November will shape the future of America. Dean has also taken a stand to stop free trade until 12-year-olds are no longer making clothes and shoes. What's so wrong with that?

The bottom line is Dean is a man of his word. Dean said the United States should not have gone to war with Iraq, while his closest Democratic candidates voted to go to war. Since then, candidates like Gephardt have backpedaled saying they didn't listen to Bush but listened to the CIA.

We at *The Missourian* support Dean as he marches towards the starting gate, beginning next week in Iowa. And according to a recent poll published in *The Des Moines Register*, so do Iowans. As of press time, 26 percent support Dean. It's about time college students stand up and take notice to what is going on in this country.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR Amnesty support denied

I used to be a supporter of Amnesty International. Not anymore. I have been following the "saga" at Northwest regarding the replica of the wall that Israel is constructing in the area of the West Bank.

This wall is being constructed to prevent Arab terrorists from infiltrating into the heart of Israel. This wall is designed to stop horrible acts of terror that Arab groups, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, have been perpetrating from within the West Bank. These groups specifically target civilians who eat in coffee shops and pizza restaurants, stand in lines waiting to enter teen dance clubs, ride public buses, and attend religious ceremonies such as Passover Seders.

The West Bank border is like a spaghetti colander. Arab terrorists have been filtering through this border with ease.

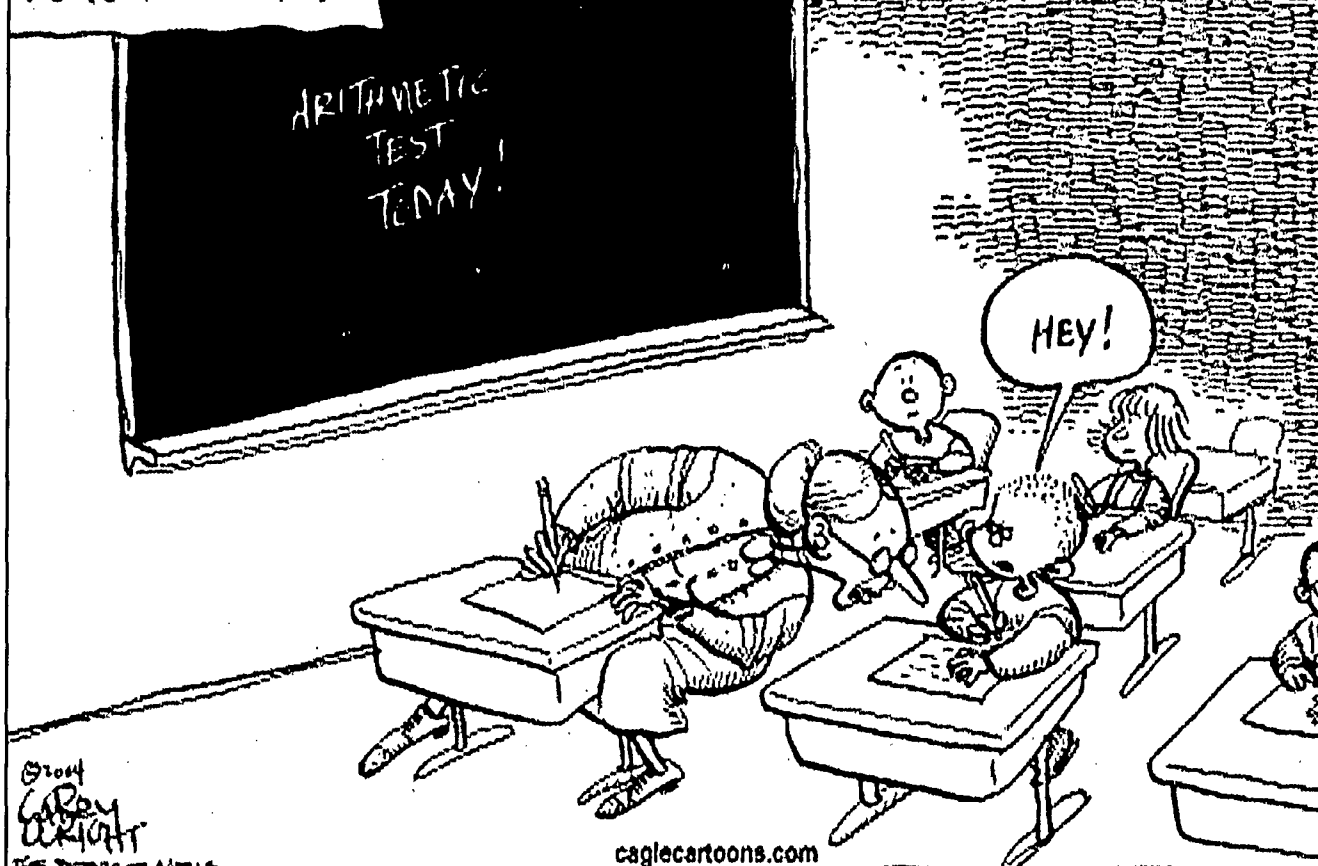
Israel is just trying to defend herself in the face of ruthless, cold-blooded murder.

Unfortunately, until the Arabs of the West Bank, all of the Arabs, can learn to live in peace with the Jewish state of Israel, there will need to be a wall. Hopefully, this wall will only need to be temporary.

Until the Arabs living in the West Bank can find the leadership capable of controlling these bloody murderers, this wall will be a necessity. Until Amnesty International provides a more factual portrayal of the situation that Israel is enduring, I will not be a supporter of this organization.

DAVID A. RAFFEL
MARYVILLE RESIDENT

WHY SOME VETERAN TEACHERS DON'T LIKE NEW PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS:



Editor looks to resolutions, hope in 2004

You get four weeks of rest and relaxation to do whatever you want. You can sleep in as late as you want and you don't have to worry about professors cramming extra assignments in at the end of the trimester. Who said college isn't like the "real world?"

It seems like a year ago I hopped into my truck to head back to Omaha, Neb., to get away from finals, the flu and deadlines. What the hell for, you ask? To rent movies, watch the fourth and fifth seasons of *Friends* and play PS2 with my friends, of course.

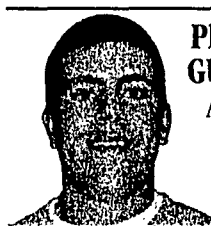
That got me thinking, "What am I doing with my life?" And just after I got to thinking that, I read Sports Illustrated's money column, "The Life of Reilly." That week, Rick Reilly decided to write about all the things he would do if he only had one year left to live.

So, I decided to spin off that and write about the things I did during winter break in 2003, as well as the things I can improve on in 2004. Some of these items include resolutions, while others include hope and only hope. So without further ado, I give you my "Wish List" (in no particular order):

■ I wish I could enjoy hot, home-cooked meals every night and homemade French Toast at least three times a week like I did over break. (thanks Mom!) Resolution: Learn how to cook more than just Pop Tarts and Pasta Roni.

■ I wish I could have landed a seasonal job to help pay off some of my college debt. I love it how places put up signs like, "Holiday help needed," but they don't call you

Under the 'Scope



PETE
GUTSCHENRITTER
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

back after you fill out an application. (thanks Hollywood Video)

■ I wish I could get up, slip on some sweat pants and a wind breaker, while sporting that just-got-out-of-bed hair in front of my sisters. Yet, something tells me they would throw me in an Abercrombie and Fitch store and never let me step out again without their fashion advice.

■ I wish I wouldn't feel so awkward around my Mom's side of the family. When I went to my cousin's wedding, I didn't know the names of some of the people I was talking to. Resolution: Name tags.

■ I wish I could have sent the column I wrote last March to the three American journalists that were seriously injured in Iraq Dec. 31. In that particular column, I urged journalists not to go over to Iraq until it was safe. Clearly it's not safe, as innocent people lose their lives every day. But as three *Los Angeles Times* reporters went to a popular bar in Baghdad to celebrate the new year, an explosion killed three and injured 12. Resolution: Help spread peace on Earth.

■ I wish I could have told my aunt in

person how strong she is and how courageous she is for battling this long. It's been more than a year since she was diagnosed with cancer, and at Thanksgiving time, nobody was sure how much time she would have. She inspired me to write a column that appeared in the Dec. 4 issue of *The Northwest Missourian*. Miraculously, she made it to Christmas Eve. It was a great night. On the ride back to Lincoln, Neb., she cried, not knowing if she would see those people again. Yet, she's still going strong, even though she needs oxygen just to talk. But don't tell her she can't continue living life.

■ I wish I could stick with my New Year's resolution and start flossing every day. For the last three years, I have promised two different dentists I would start flossing on a daily basis. Don't you just hate it when the dental hygienist pokes at your gums with that metal pick until they bleed?

■ I wish I could have found Michael Moore's film, "Pets or Meat" at the video store. Say what you want about Moore or his Oscar speech, but the fact is Hollywood needs more people like him. I've seen "Bowling for Columbine," "Roger and Me" and "The Big One," but I couldn't find "Pets or Meat." What gives?

■ I wish the Chiefs defense would have shown up Sunday. That's the second time in four months a team has let me down (No, I'm not over the Cubs loss yet).

■ I wish I wasn't so redundant. Resolution: I won't start a column in 2004 that begins with "Warning." Nope, I'm starting over from scratch. And here's to hoping you have a successful trimester. It should be an interesting one.

Loss inspires editor to look beyond life

My View



RILEY HUSKEY
COPY EDITOR

With the recent death of my friend Ben Scherer, I've tried to put my own life into perspective, and others, for that matter.

Let's face it—none of us lead the perfect, stress-free life. We have our highest of highs and lowest of lows and not many people that I come into contact with have a completely stable life. That could have been any one of us in that situation and that's the cold, hard truth.

When we encounter rough times in our life, the best thing I think one can do is reach out. Be it a friend, family member, counselor or higher being, it can be a huge help and blessing. To talk anything through can help shape the everyday decisions you have to make. Which brings me to my next solution—spirituality.

Spirituality relates to the human spirit and soul, as opposed to the material or physical

values we share. Whether it be Christianity, Catholicism, Judaism, Buddhism or another religion, that can be the difference between living life the way you want to and living the life you don't want to.

I don't believe in Christianity for the sole reason that there are too many questions and

events that can't be answered or explained. I've done a lot of research and reading in Buddhism and that's the kind of life I want to live. I want to take on my daily events and activities with an open heart—a heart of compassion and a heart of love.

I strongly encourage everyone reading this column to go out and purchase the Dalai Lama's "An Open Heart." I think it can help put your own life into perspective regardless of your religious affiliation. And I hate to be the advocate for Buddhism, because I'm not a Buddhist yet—I'm still trying to "awaken" myself.

The great thing about Buddhism is that you can look at it as a religion or a lifestyle—that topic is still debated today. But whatever you do, don't let your emotions build up. That isn't the way your life has to be.

Peace. Love. I'm out.

YOUR VIEW

What of the nine democratic candidates would get your vote?



"What Bush is doing right now with the war and everything else is 100 percent wrong. There is no use going in there and killing millions of people for something as petty as weapons of mass destruction. I'm voting for Dean."

Brian Brooks
Broadcasting



"I'm leaning towards Dean based on what he stands for. I can identify more with what he says and what he wants."

Heather Schmidt
Political Science and Sociology



"Joe Lieberman. Yeah, he may look like a muppet, but he has good goals to revive the economy and create more jobs."

Nathan Rivera
IDM-Visual Imaging



"Dean, he's focused on the issues while the other candidates resort to name-calling. When the other Democrats were Bush's robots, Dean actually stood up for what he believed in."

Tim Royers
Undecided



"I'm voting for Carol Moseley Braun because I think it would be a nice change from all the historical male figures. She is also dedicated to building a world of peace and progress."

Tonya Kelly
Undecided

The Northwest Missourian is an independent learning environment providing the best source of information and advertising for our community.

Questions? Comments about *The Northwest Missourian*? Story idea? We would like to hear from you. If you do not find the person you need on the right, please contact Bill Knust at 660-562-1224, by fax at 660-562-1521, by e-mail at northwestmissourian@hotmail.com or write us at 800 University Drive, Wells Hall 6, Maryville, MO 64468.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We want to hear your views on this issue and others. Call *The Missourian* Back Talk line at 562-1990. E-mail your letter to the editor to northwestmissourian@hotmail.com or send it by mail to: *The Northwest Missourian*, Wells Hall 6, 800 University Drive, Maryville, MO 64468. Letters are limited to 250 words due to space constraints. All letters must be signed; students should include their major. *The Missourian* reserves the right to edit all letters.

CONTINUED from 1A

Northwest men seize top spot in national poll

under head coach Lionel Sinn. Four of the team's losses came in the last four games of the season as the 'Cats failed to win any tournament game in the MIAA and South Central Regional.

In 2001-02 the 'Cats won the MIAA regular season and tournament titles, as well as the South Central Region Tournament on their way to the Elite Eight.

With the new ranking, the 'Cats will get every opponent's best shot from here on out, Northwest point

guard Sky Wilson said.

"It's a good thing, I guess," Wilson said. "But we look at it as just a number. In the end, we want to come out with the same intensity every night."

We want to play our game and our style of basketball every time we step on the floor."

Only two teams from the MIAA have been ranked No. 1 since 1993. Each time they only lasted in the top spot for one week. In 1993, Washburn University was ranked

for one week in February and in February of 1999, Pittsburg State University held the top spot.



Northwest Basketball

CONTINUED from 1A

Regents continue merger discussion, weigh options

"We want to measure interaction and activities to gauge effectiveness," Hubbard said.

Although Northwest did not win the Baldrige award, the university scored in the top five of all organizations that applied for the award.

"This means three awards went to people who scored less than we did," Hubbard said.

Next on the agenda was the continuing discussion of the merger. University of Missouri System President Elson Floyd was not present as the Regents discussed the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Memorandum of Understanding, drafted during the fall trimester, is a contract designed for the curators of the University of Missouri system. It is designed of 15 principles that the President wants ensured if the merger is successful. The memorandum discusses name changes, tuition increases, campus funding and other issues.

"You're faced with the most important decision in the history of Northwest," Hubbard told the Board.

The Regents carefully discussed

each principle and gave input for the final draft to send to the curators of the UM system.

They faced turmoil when trying to decide whether the university name would change to University of Missouri-Northwest or the University of Missouri-Maryville.

"The name means more to some people than anything else," Hubbard said. "It helps people believe the institution will stay the same."

When discussing tuition increases the president states that "it will not arbitrarily be raised to match other campuses," but it is inconclusive whether it will be raised or not.

"Our tuition is artificially low anyway," Regent Rollie Stadman said. "I think we've under-priced ourselves."

The university's core budget was also an issue. Regents tried to discern whether the base appropriation would increase or decrease with the merger.

"The most puzzling aspect to me is funding," Regent Rita Hanks said.

Angel Harris-Lewis, the special assistant to the president, directed the Board of Regents to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the merger.

They divided into groups to discuss the trends of various aspects of demographics, economics, politics, competition, legalities and technology.

"We need to ask ourselves, how do we ensure that we can maintain a culture that facilitates innovation," Hubbard said.

Jon Rickman, vice president for information systems, believes the University will benefit in terms of technology and computing systems if the merger occurs.

"I want to establish the difference between what we are now and what we will become when we merge," Rickman said.

After discussing the pros and cons, Hubbard expressed the benefits of research capabilities and grant opportunities if we merge.

"I believe that it is a great move to join the UM system," Hubbard said.

The Regents entered a closed meeting to make their final decisions on what direction they would go with the merger. The president plans to update the public on decisions made by the Northwest Board of Regents and the curators of the UM system in two weeks.

CONTINUED from 1A

A void of darkness reaches Northwest

and drug use. In one prayer (shared by Lisa), Ben asked God to help him "stay away from drugs."

"I know with all my heart that drugs are bad for me," Ben wrote. "For You live within me, so let me not pollute my body."

Approximately 100,000 young adults, aged 15 to 24,

"I know with all my heart that drugs are bad for me. For You live within me, so let me not pollute my body."

Assistant Jake Christensen said binge drinking is something he often observes.

"It gets to the point where people are drinking so much, they don't know what their actions are," Christensen said.

Joyce Anderson, whose grandson James, a Northwest student, died in a drunk driving accident last April, said young people don't seem to see the effects of drinking.

"There is no doubt that alcohol contributed to James' death," Anderson said. "It hurts everyone. Not just family, but everyone."

Though drunk driving is typically assumed to be the worst danger facing intoxicated students, other accidents are equally probable.

Christensen, whose friend was seriously injured after falling off a balcony while intoxicated, said his college experiences have made him think a lot about the role of alcohol in his life.

Lisa hopes that Ben's death will cause many more students to consider their choices.

"Why did my son, just one of the people doing this, have to die?" she said.

"I cried today, all day. I just been saying to God, 'I want my Ben back.'"

Lisa describes Ben as a lover of life and a champion of the underdog. In their letter to him, Ben's parents said that even in death he was their hero.

"It was only appropriate that you had the rarest of all blood types, B negative," they wrote. "And so the people that you saved were precisely the kind of people, you always identified with—the underdogs, the people who were most hopeless and desperate."

On Northwest's campus, Ben's friends are feeling the void of his absence. Dave Brown, Ben's pledge pop at Kappa Sigma, said that Ben always brightened the mood in the house.

"When I heard the news, it broke my heart," Brown said. "I took a couple of days to think about alcohol and how it affects me. I don't think that Ben's death has completely set in yet."

Crawford said Ben's death didn't feel real until she returned to school.

"He was in our room every day," Crawford said. "It just doesn't feel right without him around."

For Lisa, the pain of Ben's death will be with her forever. She said that every wedding she attends, every graduation, and every birth will remind her of her son. She remains comforted, however, by the knowledge that Ben is with God.

"I know he's in heaven and I know he's at peace," she said.

CONTINUED from 1A

Dean search, staff changes mark new trimester

of Missouri-Columbia, he said the components of the Northwest job are familiar to him.

"Some of the particular things that are new is working with (the high school) age group," he said. "Many of the other things I'm used to."

The University is still searching for a permanent vice president for

University Relations after Vansaghi resigned last December. However, the University cut the position into three when Northwest alumnus Dick Wiles was hired as a Jefferson City lobbyist.

"Tom had a wide range of responsibilities and we split it into three parts," said Lewis, who heads the AdvoCATS and legislative internship

programs and helping Student Senate with Legislative Reception Day in March. AdvoCATS is a group of Northwest alumni that receive weekly updates from Jefferson City.

"I was involved heavily with Student Senate when I went here, so I was knowledgeable," Lewis said. "I'm also familiar with the AdvoCATS program and the legislative internship."

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A Trough Full of Worries



By STEPHANIE STANGL
CHIEF REPORTER

Unless a craving for bits and pieces of bovine nervous tissue sweeps Maryville, residents can put their mad cow fears to pasture.

"In order for a human to get sick from coming in contact with a cow that has mad cow disease, they would have to consume the brain and spinal cord of the infected cow," said Dr. Joe Powell, a veterinarian at the Nodaway Veterinary Clinic.

Individuals can not get sick from eating a hamburger or steak made from an infected cow, because the virus is not transmitted from muscle cuts of meat.

As for the Holstein cow that tested positive for mad cow disease, in December, the U. S. Department of Agriculture suspects that it was most likely imported from Canada in 2001. In addition, the National Beef Association says that BSE has an incubation period of 2-8 years, so the cow may have eaten infected meat scraps before the practice was banned in 1997.

Essentially, the lone incident of mad cow disease does not have its roots embedded in the American beef market.

Under new regulations set by the USDA, downer cattle, those not able to walk on their own because of injury or illness, will no longer be able to enter the human food supply.

Local farmers are already abiding by this regulation.

"If a cow can't make it from the home pen to the sale ring and back, the sale barn won't take it," said James Penn, assistant dairy herdsman at Northwest's R.T. Wright Farm.

According to Raymond Ashbough, head dairy herdsman at the University farm, if the aforementioned occurs, the cow is then killed and a rendering service comes to dispose of the animal. This way, the meat has virtually no chance of entering the food supply.

Although residents can confidently consume beef, there are some economic problems that arose following the scare.

According to John Anderson, manager of the sale barn in Maryville, cattle prices are down \$15 per 100 pounds of beef.

Not everyone sees this as a potential problem.

"The beef prices have dropped, but beef prices were unusually high anyway," Ashbough said. "We were kind of just on a gravy train — it was going to go down anyhow. Now they are just back to a more normal price."

In addition to a decrease in prices, more than 30 countries refuse to import American beef. As a result, a surplus of beef has also driven down prices.

The disease, otherwise known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, is a neurological brain-deteriorating disease that, according to Powell, is transmitted when a cow ingests the virus through infected feed. The only way this can occur is when BSE laden brain or spinal cord pieces from the cow are ground up into feed.

According to Powell, this process ceased a long time ago.

"There is no way a person could consume contaminated beef around here," Powell said. "Farmers no longer feed their cattle meat scraps."

The USDA also set other regulations to halt the spread of BSE.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service of the USDA will no longer allow cattle to be marked as inspected and safe until confirmation comes in that the cows have been tested negative for BSE.

The USDA also declared that materials such as the cow's brain, skull, eyes and spinal cord will no longer be used in the human food supply.

According to Encarta, the first identified case of BSE was discovered in the United Kingdom in November 1986. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that, although 153 people worldwide have since died from the human form of the affliction, a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, no cases originated in the United States. The majority of those who died were from England.

"These people from a small county in England were actually eating the brain of these infected cows," Powell said.

"Residents need to remember that this cow came from another country," Anderson said. "It wasn't born or infected here. I haven't changed my eating habits and residents shouldn't either."

A group of dairy cows heartily consume their feed. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, feed can no longer contain animal byproducts.

PHOTO BY NIKI
CARDER/CHIEF
PHOTOGRAPHER

FROM THE TROUGH TO THE PLATE: HOW MAD COW IS TRANSMITTED



The Cow

Mad cow disease infects the brain and spinal cords of the animals. The disease is transmitted when cows consume ground-up carcasses of other animals, including cows. The United States banned the practice in 1997. Animals exhibit difficulty walking and standing when they are infected. The incubation period for the disease is 2 to 8 years.

The Meat

If meat contaminated with mad cow makes it to the packing plant, it will host infection-carrying proteins. The meat will not look or smell differently than other meat.



The Consumption

When meat contaminated with mad cow disease is consumed, the disease attacks the nervous system. The outer layer of the brain develops tiny holes. The condition is degenerative and fatal. It can take several years to appear in humans. Fewer than 200 cases have ever been reported, almost all in the United Kingdom.

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Home winning streak ends at 26

Top-ranked 'Cats drop first contest of the year, snap 26-game streak

By BILL KNUST
SENIOR REPORTER

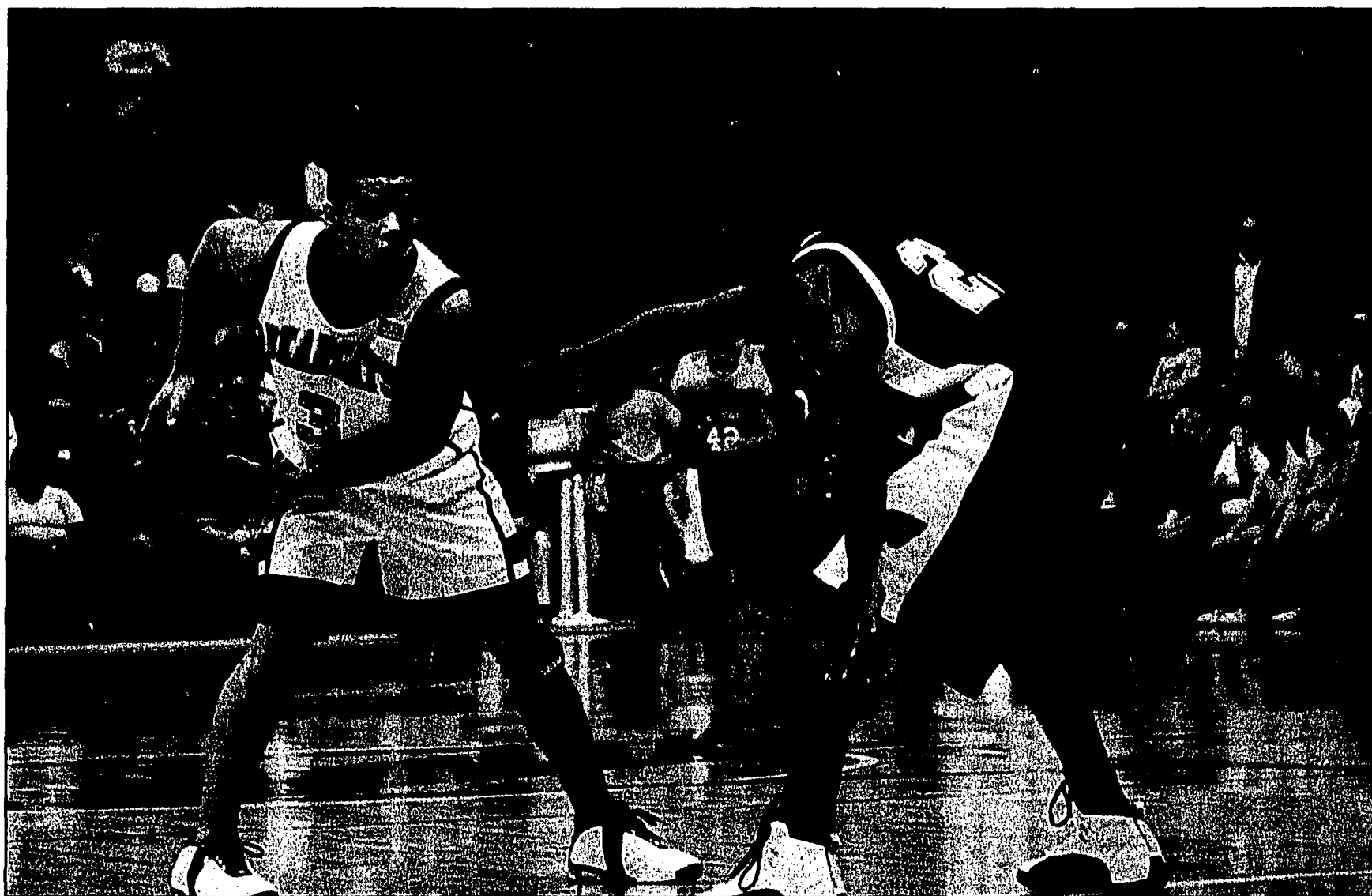
Add another chapter to the rivalry between the No. 1 ranked Northwest men's basketball team and No. 13 Washburn University with the Ichabods' 72-63 win.

The loss was Northwest's first of the year and dropped them to 13-1 and snapped their 26-game home winning streak.

Tempers flared between the teams when Northwest forward Victor James fouled Washburn forward J.P. Meitner as he attempted to dunk the ball on a breakaway with six seconds to go.

"Coach always tells us we don't give up any free lay-ups," James said. "I wasn't trying to hurt him, I wasn't trying to get a flagrant foul, but it's just common courtesy not to dunk in somebody's house with six seconds left. I did what my coach told me to. I fouled hard and he had words for me. But hey, that's how we play."

As the two players exchanged words both teams rushed to their respective player and got in between the two so nothing else would happen. The inten-



Sky Wilson looks to drive to the basket against the Washburn Ichabods on Wednesday night. The No. 1 Bearcats dropped their first game of the year 72-63. The loss dropped their overall record to 13-1.

sity in the last six seconds was a constant throughout the game.

The Ichabods came out hot, as they knocked down two three-pointers and two layups to take a 10-2 lead. They would hit their first five three-pointers of the half and finish the game 8-for-15 from the arc.

"We were fortunate because we hit shots," Washburn head

coach Bob Chipman said. "We haven't hit that many shots all year and we hit them all in one half."

Northwest responded to the early deficit with an 8-0 run to tie the score at 10 and the two teams were tied again at 14. But, it was the closest the 'Cats would get in a game they never led.

"We played hard as a team, but they outmatched our intensity," Northwest forward Keenan Weir said. "I haven't seen the rebounding statistics, but we got dominated on the offensive glass. They just handed it to us, the whole game."

Actually, Washburn had only two more offensive boards (16) than the 'Cats' 14, but the Ichabods got their rebounds at

key times.

Trailing 37-25, Weir hit three straight treys to offset two Washburn buckets and pull the 'Cats within seven at the break. He had a chance to cut it to four, but his three-pointer at the buzzer rimmed out and Northwest trailed 41-34.

The Ichabods came out hot again in the second half and a 5-0 run gave them a 46-34 lead.

Washburn's lead fluctuated from 12 to seven points for most of the second half, until Northwest cut the lead to five at 58-53 with 6:50 remaining on point guard Kelvin Parker's free throws.

But the 'Bods fired back with five points of their own on a Meitner jumper with the shot clock winding down and guard Jerad Head's three-pointer to give them a 63 (please see Men 3B)

Women win against No.5 Lady Blues

By COLE YOUNG
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northwest Women's basketball team made a strong case for national respect by handing the No. 5 ranked Washburn Lady Blues a 67-59 loss.

Northwest forced the Lady Blues into 27 turnovers in front of a capacity crowd at Bearcat Arena.

"We've been doing that all year," senior center Sarah Vollertsen said. "I don't care who we're playing, our defense is going to cause people some trouble."

The Bearcats held the normally high-powered Washburn offense to 20 first half points. Twenty points is the second lowest amount of points allowed by Northwest thus far in the year. The previous low was 19 points by an 0-15 Rockhurst University squad.

In the first 1:37 of the first half, the Bearcats faced their first bit of adversity when Vollertsen grabbed her second foul.

With Vollertsen out, the inside responsibilities shifted to forwards Ashely Poptanycz and Jenna Wolfe.

"We have to get Sarah to watch her fouls a little bit," Poptanycz said. "She can't make us nervous like that anymore. All of the posts had to step up a little bit when she went out."

Without Vollertsen in the lineup Northwest was able to go on a 12-0 run thanks to three consecutive three-pointers by Laura Friederich, Erica Hatterman and Meghan Blay. (please see Women 3B)

Brisbane scores 24 in first round win, Golden Eagles up next for Maryville

By JEROME BOETTCHER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Maryville High School was not only able to shut out the Falls City Tigers Tuesday in their first seven possessions, but they were also able to keep the ball away from the basket.

Junior Robbie Lade jumped out with four straight steals to keep the Tigers without an attempt from the floor on Tuesday at the Savannah Tourna-

ment. Junior Syd Brisbane put in 12 points in the first quarter, including three 3-pointers. The 'Hounds rolled to a 17-0 lead before the Tigers finally put a point on the board. Falls City's first point was a free throw with 2:49 to play in the first quarter. The quarter ended 27-5, with Falls City getting all of its points on free throws.

The 'Hounds continued to roll from there. They went up 44-16 at the half and Falls City

didn't score their first field goal until 5:54 left in the second quarter.

Falls City coach Don Hogue received a technical foul 30 seconds later because of his constant arguing about fouls. However, the 'Hounds weren't free from the

fouling fiasco. They reached the limit in the first half. The 'Hounds also found themselves turning the ball over frequently.

"We just have to have better concentration and execute better," 'Hounds head coach Mike Kuwitzky said. "(We can't) get into too big of a hurry. We got in kind of a big hurry there for awhile, we just have to slow down and be a little more patient." (please see Brisbane 4B)

HOUNDS
BASKETBALL
Maryville
74
Falls City
39

Maryville rebounds from Irish loss, picks up win over Clarinda 58-47

By COLE YOUNG
SPORTS EDITOR

The Maryville girls basketball team came away with a split in the New Year's first week of action.

On Monday, the 'Hounds picked up a non-conference win over Clarinda, Iowa to run their record to 9-4 overall. Maryville defeated the Cardinals 58-47.

"We came out and played really well at the beginning," head coach Randy Cook said. "We sort of trailed off in the

second quarter and only led by two at the half."

But, the second half was all Maryville. They outscored Clarinda by nine to come away with the double-digit lead.

Abby Walter led the way for the 'Hounds with 15 points. Walter's eight point first quarter helped propel them to their 14-11 first quarter lead.

Cindy Austin was also in double figures Monday, scoring 12 points.

On Friday, the girls

opened up the Midland Empire Conference season against the Lafayette Fighting Irish. The 'Hounds were not able to start the regular season off on the right foot and fell 52-46 in the opener.

Despite the loss, Cook sees several positives from the team as they near the halfway point in the year.

"We are really balanced," Cook said. "We have several players who can step up and score in double digits at any given time during the game."

The 'Hounds also have the

ability to cause problems for the opponent on the defensive end.

"When we want to, we can get out and press the ball pretty well," Cook said.

Causing problems will be key for the girls when they face off against St. Pius X of Kansas City. (please see 'Hounds 3B)

HOUNDS
BASKETBALL
Maryville
58
Clarinda
47

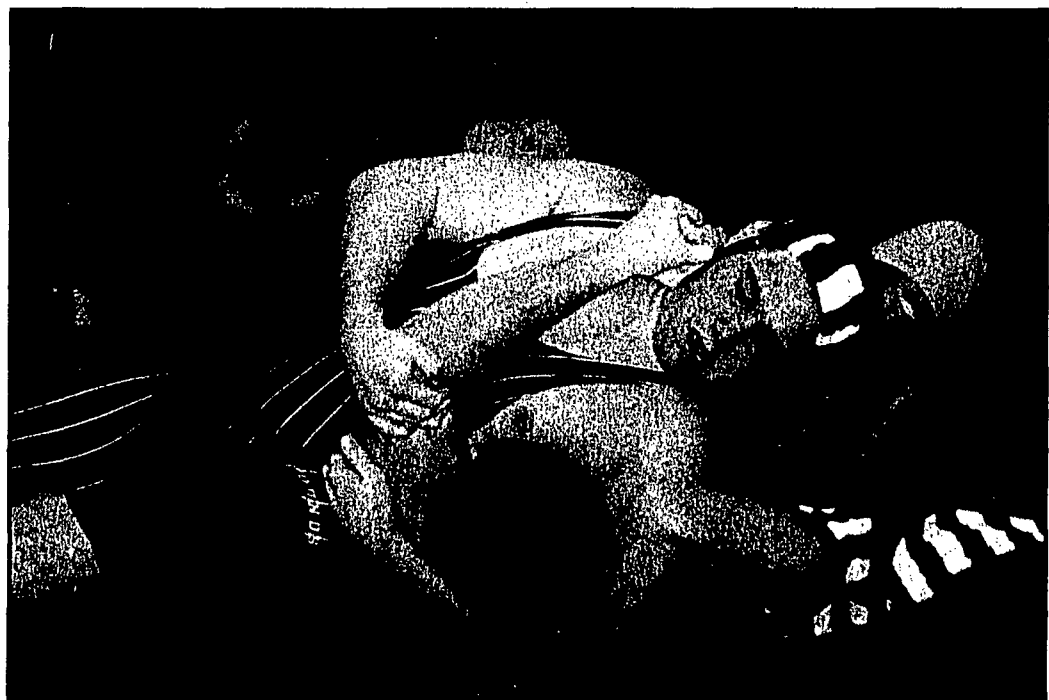


PHOTO BY BILL KNUST/SENIOR REPORTER

Heavyweight Dexter Partridge works for a pin against Tim Shafir in Tuesday's duel against Chillicothe. Partridge would get the pin seconds later and help the 'Hounds claim a 48-19 victory over their Midland Empire foe.

Wrestlers pick up dual win over Hornets

By BILL KNUST
SENIOR REPORTER

It took three matches for the Maryville High School wrestlers to get going in Tuesday's 48-19 win over Chillicothe.

But once the 'Hounds got down 13-0, Maryville rolled off 36 straight points, including five pins before Chillicothe scored again. And those points came only because Maryville was open in the 103 weight class.

"Last week we experienced this and Saturday it was a problem where we don't come out

with a lot of excitement," head coach Joe Drake said. "I think tonight for the most part we got that cleared up."

Skyler VanDiver got the 'Hounds on the scoreboard at 145 pound weight class with a 8-6 decision over Michael Marriott. The win gave the Hornets a 13-3 lead overall, but that lead would soon be gone.

The next three 'Hounds had no problem pinning their opponents before the end of the first period. Drake's son Joseph pinned his opponent at 152 in 1:58, while Colby Chesnut and Jon Reed each pinned their

opponents in the 160 and 171 pound weight classes respectively.

At 189 Eric Wilmarth continued the winning ways for the 'Hounds when he picked up a 7-1 decision win over Keith Minnis.

"Momentum is huge, and we talked about that tonight," Joe Drake said. "If one guy can just get a pin and get it started, you just get momentum. And once you get it going, each kid doesn't want to be the one to not get the pin."

The 'Hounds picked up two more pins (please see Wrestlers 3B)

Inside

Basketball features	2B
More 'Cat Basketball	3B
Indoor Track	3B
Out of Bounds	4B
J-Rome is Burning	3B
Fan Plan	5B

Boys' basketball

The 'Hounds traveled to Savannah for the Savannah Tournament. See how they did by quarters on page 4B. Also check out Fan Plan on page 5B to see when they play next.



'Hounds wrestling

The 'Hounds wrestling team has several wrestlers dominating their opponents. Check out page 4B to see which wrestlers are ranked in Class I in their respective weight classes.

Men's basketball

The Northwest Basketball team took on Washburn last night. Check out page 3B to see the breakdown of the game complete with box scores and conference leaders in points.

NCAA D-II Top 25

1. Northwest Missouri State
2. South Dakota State
3. Tarleton State
4. Pfeiffer
5. Christian Brothers
6. Florida Gulf Coast
7. Indianapolis
8. Nebraska-Kearney
9. Findlay
10. Humboldt State
11. Metro State
12. Valdosta State
13. Washburn
14. Lewis
15. Michigan Tech
16. Southern Indiana
17. South Dakota
18. Massachusetts-Lowell
19. Francis Marion
20. Rollins
21. Saint Rose
22. Cal-State Bernadino
23. Philadelphia
24. Queens (N.C.)
25. Virginia Union

BEARCAT LEADERBOARD

Points:
Kelvin Parker 17.8 ppg
Austin Meyer 13.4 ppg

Rebounds:
Byron Jackson 8.5 rpg
Jesse Shaw
4.1 rpg

Steals:
Parker
2.3 steals
Shaw
1.9 steals

Assists:
Parker
5.2 assists
Wilson
4.2 assists



Parker

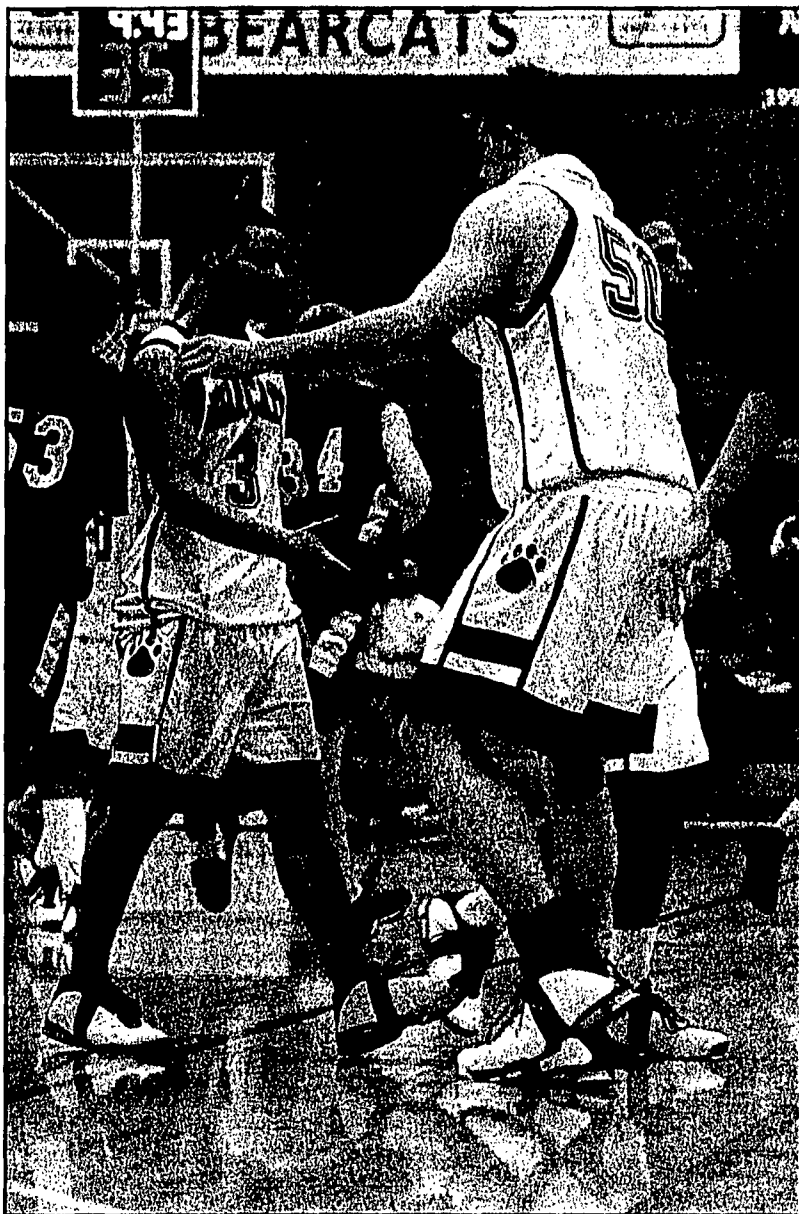


PHOTO BY COLE YOUNG/SPORTS EDITOR

Sky Wilson is congratulated after coming off the floor by teammate Joe Principe. Wilson has made an impact for the Bearcats since transferring to Northwest at the beginning of the season. Wilson is averaging nearly 10 points a game for the Bearcats.

Wilson adjusts to Northwest, helps lead team to strong start

By BILL KNUST
SENIOR REPORTER

Watch men's basketball point guard Sky Wilson. The junior has the same face through every situation. It borders on a blank stare. He never gets himself too high or too low.

As he gets into a defensive stance to guard his opponent he shuffles from side to side to stay in front of the man. His head moves back and forth like a bobblehead doll and he repeats the word "ball" with every dribble, just like men's head coach Steve Tappmeyer wants.

On the offensive side his dribble is nonchalant. It seems he's never in a hurry to go anywhere, except for when he decides to go to the basket.

That's when the nonchalant dribble turns into a sudden explosion that often culminates in a layup or dish and dunk to a player under the hoop.

His style is certainly unique, but make no mistake, it is certainly effective. He's averaging 9.8 points per game and 4.2 assists per game.

"I would call (my style) relaxed, kind of calm," Wilson said. "I try not to rush anything. I want to try and have a smooth game and let everyone know everything is alright. I don't want to be panicking all the time."

The junior college transfer comes from Scottsdale Community College where he was second team all-conference and second team all-region last season.

"They first saw me at a jamboree in Arizona," Wilson said. "Towards the end of my sophomore year at my junior col-

lege, they called me and asked me to come down for a visit. It was my first visit and it turned out to be my only visit. I liked it a lot."



Wilson

right away would have been unfair, Tappmeyer said.

"It has been a big thing for us, for him to come along this quickly," Tappmeyer said. "It is a big reason why we are where we are right now. You just never knew with him though. We liked him, but he just has a quiet personality that makes you wonder if he is a competitor."

Born in Indio, Calif., Wilson played his high school ball at Kalaheo High School in Hawaii where he was named Hawaii Player of the Year his senior year. It's safe to say coming to Maryville has definitely been an adjustment.

"It's been tough, I am not going to lie," Wilson said. "I have to bundle up tight when I go outside, but I am adjusting to it well. I just stay inside a lot and turn the heat up real high."

Wilson has been turning the heat up on his opponents. Through the first 13 games Wilson has started every one and has notched 16 steals and five blocks already. Not bad for a six-footer.

NCAA D-II Top 25

1. California (Pa.) University
2. North Florida
3. North Dakota
4. South Dakota
5. Washburn
6. Drury University
7. South Dakota State
8. Seattle Pacific
9. Emporia State
10. Glenville State
11. North Dakota State
12. Shaw University
13. Quincy
14. Angelo State
15. Northeastern State
16. Georgia State
17. American International
18. Bentley
19. Indianapolis
20. Bellarmine
21. California State-Bakersfield
22. Northern Kentucky
23. Concordia
24. Armstrong Atlantic
25. Augusta (Ga.)

BEARCAT LEADERBOARD

Points:
Sarah Vollertsen 15.2 ppg
Laura Friederich 11.2 ppg

Rebounds:
Vollertsen 9.6 rpg
Ashely Poptanycz 6.9 rpg

Steals:
Jane Chalmers
2.6 steals
Jenna Wolfe
2.6 steals

Assists:
Chalmers
5.7 assists
Megan Blay
2.3 assists



Vollertsen

Chalmers helps lead Bearcats to fast start, leads by doing rather than speaking

By COLE YOUNG
SPORTS EDITOR

When the Northwest women take to the floor for their games, generally the most vocal player turns out to be the smallest woman on the floor.

Senior Jane Chalmers may seem like a shy, quiet student walking around campus or before and after games, but once the ball is tipped, a new person seems to come out.

"Jane is not a very vocal person, but when you get in the middle of a game, she is," head coach Gene Steinmeyer said.

While Chalmers only averages four points per game, lately she has been seeing the fruits of her labor come out on the defensive end.

Chalmers is tied with Jenna Wolfe for the team lead in steals with 34.

"(Missouri) Western's point guard had 26 points against Central," Steinmeyer said. "Two nights earlier when we played and Jane covered her, she had two points and 11 turnovers."

According to Steinmeyer, one of the reasons for Chalmers' strong defensive performance this year is her speed, which is something that Chalmers worked on during the offseason.

"She wears baggy clothes, so people don't realize she has lost some weight," Steinmeyer said.

"She didn't need to lose the weight, but she did and she is faster this season. She can cover short, quick ones and tall ones. She has not let a point guard go off on us yet."

Since the conference opener against Southwest Baptist, Chalmers has been ailing with an arm injury, lowering her scoring output. She has made up for that with her assists.

"My role is to take care of the ball," Chalmers said. "I try to do that and get the ball to the other players."

This season the Bearcats added more depth to her position with transfer student Megan Blay. While some thought Blay may take over Chalmers' role at the point, the two have shared time.

"Megan is good competition," Chalmers said. "It's good to have some more minutes on the bench



Chalmers



PHOTO BY BILL KNUST/SENIOR REPORTER

Senior Jane Chalmers drives to the basket against Missouri Southern last weekend. Chalmers is still ailing from a shoulder injury she received against Southwest Baptist.

too, and get more recovery time. That way you're not dying at the end of the game."

The Australia native's hatred of losing is another thing that stands out among her teammates.

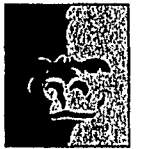
"She doesn't like to lose," Steinmeyer said. "She demands that her teammates don't want to

either."

That leadership is something else the head coach feels Chalmers has improved on since she came to Northwest.

"I think her first year here she tried to be a leader," Steinmeyer said. "This year she is a leader. When Jane speaks, people listen."

UP NEXT



Pittsburg State University
5:30 p.m. Saturday
Pittsburg Kan.



Truman State University
5:30 p.m. Wednesday
Kirksville



Emporia State University
5:30 p.m. Jan. 24
Bearcat Arena

STAT OF THE WEEK

Senior Brooke Hogue has made a three-point basket in each of the last 18 games. Saturday was the first time all season Hogue was held to just one three points. On the year she is shooting 46 percent from beyond the arc.

NORTHWEST
MISSOURI
CELLULAR

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

AUSTIN MEYER

21 POINTS

10 REBOUNDS

5 ASSISTS

1 STEAL

1 BLOCK

1 FOULED OUT

1 MISS

1 FREE THROW

1 AND ONE

1 DUNK

1 LAYUP

1 JUMP SHOT

1 PENALTY SHOT

ASHLEY POPTANYCZ

30 POINTS

10 REBOUNDS

5 ASSISTS

1 STEAL

1 BLOCK

1 FOULED OUT

1 MISS

1 FREE THROW

1 AND ONE

1 DUNK

1 LAYUP

1 JUMP SHOT

1 PENALTY SHOT

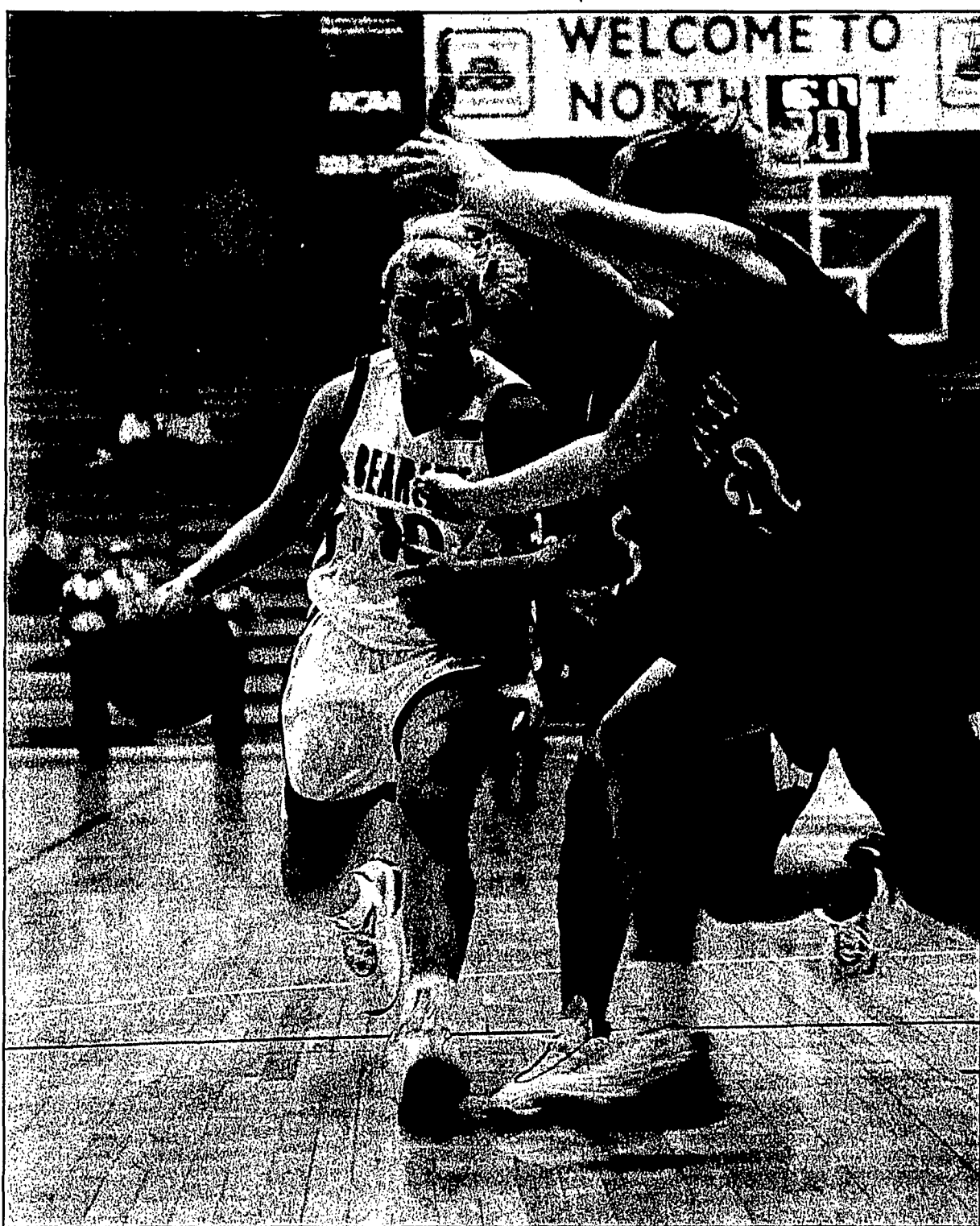


PHOTO BY BILL KNUST/SENIOR REPORTER
Laura Friederich drives to the basket against Washburn on Wednesday night. The women knocked off the No. 5 Lady Blues 67-59. Friederich had eight points for the Bearcats, including two three-pointers. The win improved Northwest to 12-2 overall and 5-0 in the MIAA.

Continued from 1B

Women come away with win over nationally ranked Lady Blues

The run made what was once an 11-10 game into a 23-10 Northwest advantage.

Northwest took that momentum and extended it into a 37-20 halftime advantage.

"I didn't want the half to end," head coach Gene Steinmeyer said. "I just wanted to keep playing."

The second half would not be quite the cakewalk the first half was.

"We came out of halftime knowing they are a really good team and are not going to die down on us," Poptanycz said. "We just had to keep pushing and had some shots fall."

Coming out of the half Washburn made the most of the break. With nine minutes left, the Lady Blues closed the gap to within five points at 46-41.

Hatterman and Wolfe then scored layups to extend the lead back to nine.

The second half run reminded Steinmeyer of the two team's game last year in the semifinals of the

MIAA tournament.

"We knew they would make a run," Steinmeyer said. "Last year we were down 18 points with 16 minutes to go and we made up 17 of those. All Washburn had to do was make up 17 and they had 20 minutes to do it."

The Bearcats would then not let the Lady Blues come within seven the rest of the game and at times led by as many as 15.

"We just wear teams out and keep going," Vollertsen said. "Our shots stopped falling for a little bit, but they came back. I never thought for a second we were going to lose that game."

Though Steinmeyer isn't so sure the team is top 25 material, he is confident the win sent a message to the rest of the conference.

"It proves that at the very most we probably deserve to be in the top three in the conference," Steinmeyer said. "We will see where we are 13 games from now. We passed the first test but we have two good Kansas teams coming

up."

Northwest travels to Pittsburg State University this weekend to take on the Gorillas. Tipoff is set for 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

The win improved the Bearcats' record to 12-2 overall and 5-0 in MIAA conference play.

Game box score

Northwest 67, Washburn 59

Washburn

Player	min.	fg	fga	ft	fta	rb	a	pf	tp
Ubelaker	17	3-5	0-0	2-0	0-0	0	7		
Sintra	18	1-3	5-6	0-0	0-0	3	7		

Player	min.	fg	fga	ft	fta	rb	a	pf	tp
Roadhouse	15	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	3	0		
Garrett	16	0-2	0-0	2-0	0-0	0	0		
Westling	30	4-9	2-2	8-7	1-1	1	11		
Keeley	9	0-2	1-2	0-1	1-1	1	1		
Rivers	26	0-8	4-5	2-4	4-4	4	4		
Menard	24	6-13	0-0	2-1	3-16				
Whitfield	19	5-9	0-0	7-0	4-10				
McHenry	23	1-2	0-0	6-1	4-3				
Sullivan	3	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0		

Player	min.	fg	fga	ft	fta	rb	a	pf	tp
Poptanycz	33	5-10	2-2	8-1	0-12				
Vollertsen	16	2-9	4-7	2-1	4-8				
Chalmers	32	0-3	6-9	2-8	3-6				
Friederich	26	3-11	0-0	1-4	0-8				
Hogue	30	3-8	5-6	1-1	0-13				
Blay	8	1-2	0-0	3-2	1-3				
Wolfe	22	2-4	0-0	7-0	3-4				
Hatterman	16	3-4	3-4	5-1	2-10				
Fields	7	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0				
Scherer	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0				
Freerkens	8	1-3	1-2	1-1	1-3				

Player	min.	fg	fga	ft	fta	rb	a	pf	tp
Poptanycz	33	5-10	2-2	8-1	0-12				
Vollertsen	16	2-9	4-7	2-1	4-8				
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Wolfe	22	2-4	0-0	7-0	3-4				
Hatterman	16	3-4	3-4	5-1	2-10				
Fields	7	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0				
Scherer	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0				
Freerkens	8	1-3	1-2	1-1	1-3				

Player	min.	fg	fga	ft	fta	rb	a	pf	tp
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Blay	8	1-2	0-0	3-2	1-3				
Wolfe	22	2-4	0-0	7-0	3-4				
Hatterman	16	3-4	3-4	5-1	2-10				
Fields	7	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0				
Scherer	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0				
Freerkens	8	1-3	1-2	1-1	1-3				

Player	min.	fg	fga	ft	fta	rb	a	pf	tp
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Wolfe	22	2-4	0-0	7-0	3-4				
Hatterman	16	3-4	3-4	5-1	2-10				
Fields	7	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0				
Scherer	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0				
Freerkens	8	1-3	1-2	1-1	1-3				

Player	min.	fg	fga	ft	fta	rb	a	pf	tp
Poptanycz	33	5-10	2-2	8-1	0-12				
Vollertsen	16	2-9	4-7	2-1	4-8				
Chalmers	32	0-3	6-9	2-8	3-6				
Friederich	26	3-11	0-0	1-4	0-8				
Hogue	30	3-8	5-6	1-1	0-13				
Blay	8	1-2	0-0	3-2	1-3				
Wolfe	22	2-4	0-0	7-0	3-4				
Hatterman	16	3-4	3-4	5-1	2-10				
Fields	7	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0				
Scherer	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0				
Freerkens	8	1-3	1-2	1-1	1-3				

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Friederich	26	3-11	0-0	1-4	0-8				
Hogue	30	3-8	5-6	1-1	0-13				
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Wolfe	22	2-4	0-0	7-0	3-4				
Hatterman	16	3-4	3-4	5-1	2-10				
Fields	7	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0				
Scherer	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0				
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Hogue	30	3-8	5-6	1-1	0-13				
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Wolfe	22	2-4	0-0	7-0	3-4				
Hatterman	16	3-4	3-4	5-1	2-10				
Fields	7	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0				
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Freerkens	8	1-3	1-2	1-1	1-3				

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Friederich	26	3-11	0-0	1-4	0-8				
Hogue	30	3-8	5-6	1-1	0-13</				



PHOTO BY NIKI CORDER/ CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Kelli Dawson and Abby Walter fight for a loose ball Tuesday during practice. The 'Hounds picked up a 58-46 win over Clarinda on Monday night. Walter led the way with 15 points.

Continued from 1B

'Hounds pick up non-conference win

Scoring by Quarters					
Maryville	14	16	16	12	58
Clarinda	11	17	6	13	47

"Hopefully our quickness will cause them problems on the outside," Cook said. "We hope they won't be able to get a lot of passes inside to their post players."

The Warriors could create problems for the 'Hounds if they are able to force the ball to the

inside.

"St. Pius has three girls between 5'10 and 6'1," Cook said. "We aren't nearly that big in there."

Game time on Friday is 7 p.m.

Next week, the 'Hounds travel to Kansas City to place in the Bishop Miege tournament, one that features teams from Kansas' biggest classes.

Leading Scorers			
Abby Walter	15		
Cindy Austin	12		
Kelli Dawson	8		

Continued from 1B

Brisbane scores 24 in 'Hounds victory

The 'Hounds finished the game with a 74-39 victory over the Tigers. Brisbane ended up with 24 points total and had five 3-pointers after only playing three quarters. Junior Josh Wilmes scored 12 points. Seniors Erick Auxier and Taylor McClellan scored eight points each. Four other 'Hounds scored. Lade lead with six steals bringing the team total to 13 steals.

"We felt like the defense pressure was pretty good early. It helped set the tone of the game and got us our lead," Kuwitzky said. "Fortunately then, we were able to hold them but I thought that did set the tone for the game. I was pretty happy at that point. I thought that was probably the best we played the entire game."

Kuwitzky thinks the team still has

some things to improve on.

"We have to execute a little bit better," Kuwitzky said. "I thought for a time we did get a little impatient and we've got to do a better job of scoring inside. We had a lot of shots in the paint that we missed tonight, we've got to get better at that."

The 'Hounds now have a record of 12-2. They will play tonight against Bishop LeBlond at 7:30. If they win tonight they will play in the championship game at 8 p.m. Saturday. If they lose, they will play in the third place game at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Scoring by Quarters					
Maryville	27	17	21	9	74
Falls City	5	11	12	9	39

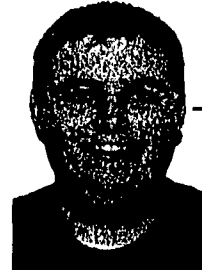
Robinson answers prayers by resigning

Continued from 1B

Wrestlers score victory over Hornets

Out of Bounds

COLE YOUNG
SPORTS
EDITOR



Greg Robinson answered a lot of Chiefs fans' prayers on Tuesday by resigning from his post as defensive coordinator.

I have to admit, I jumped the gun a bit and had already written a column calling for Robinson's head before his resignation was announced.

Robinson's inability to come up with a defensive scheme that could make at least one stop ended up costing the Chiefs a trip to the AFC Championships this

weekend.

Some are going to say that it was not Robinson's fault, rather that the people playing defense are to blame.

The thing is, the defense can't possibly be that bad. The parity of the NFL just doesn't make it possible.

Parity makes the Cincinnati Bengals playoff contenders and any team able to be beaten. It also makes the Chiefs defense seem not as bad as they looked this season.

Players like Scott Fujita and Vonnie Holliday had to be scratching their heads at the formations Robinson put them in Sunday.

At times he completely did away with linebackers and put all of his chances to make a stop into one basket. I don't need to say how that went.

Linebackers are meant to back the line when they miss tackle. Apparently Robinson never found that out and it ultimately cost him his job.

The one thing I'm going to give Robinson is some class. Sure, he sucked

at being a defensive coordinator, but at least he knew when to resign.

Can Quin Snyder make it through this season at Mizzou? Sure he's a good recruiter, but he doesn't know what to do with the talent once they get to Columbia.

They are 6-6, but three of the six wins came against schools the Tigers had no business playing against.

Wins against Oakland (Mich.), Coppin State and UNC-Greensboro combined with losses against teams like Belmont and Iowa State will not do much to get you into the NCAA tournament.

Sadly for Missouri fans, there doesn't seem to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Up next for the Tigers are games against No.13 Oklahoma, No.16 Texas and 10-2 Nebraska.

The Black and Gold faithful have to be getting tired of the fifth and sixth place finishes in the Big 12 after the Tigers boast the top recruiting classes in the nation.



PHOTO BY BILL KNUST/ SENIOR REPORTER
Skyler Vandiver works against Chillicothe's Michael Marriott in their 145 pound match Tuesday. Vandiver claimed an 8-6 win in Maryville's 48-19 victory. Vandivers win started a chain of seven consecutive victories for the 'Hounds on the night. Up next for Maryville is a duel against Hamilton in Maryville tonight. The first match is set to begin at 7 p.m.

'Hound wrestlers take aim at top positions in state

By ANDY TIMKO
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

The mats were down, anxiety was in the air and the Maryville Spoofhound wrestling team was looking to take a bite out of the Chillicothe Hornets.

"Chillicothe's been doing quite well, and it's a big win for us," head coach Joe Drake said. "We just try to take (duels) one at a time, and it's just another win."

Five 'Hound wrestlers, ranked in the top 10 in Class 1 as of Jan. 4, were out to show their fans and the Hornets what they were made

of, and they did just that.

Joe Drake and Ryan Schleusner both pinned their opponents in less than two minutes.

"You just have to outwork your opponent," senior Joseph Drake said. "You don't know how hard they are working, so you have to work as hard as you can, as long as you can."

The other three wrestlers, Justin Driskell, Cody Gillenwater and Skyler Vandiver also won their matches.

"It gives us a lot of confidence going in to the rest of our

conference matches," Vandiver said. "We've had trouble with this team in the past and we're really happy to beat them this year."

The ranked wrestlers attribute much of their success to their teammates and coach.

"I've wrestled for coach Drake for 10 years and he is the best coach in the conference in my eyes," sophomore Cody Gillenwater said. "He has good sportsmanship and when we lose, he just tells us we're going to work harder in practice."

Drake said the wrestlers' victory

was a result of mental preparation as well as physical preparation.

"We would think that the self-confidence on our feet and our hard work to be in really good shape, helps us," Joe Drake said.

Although a coach plays a big role in team sports, Drake said athletes must also have the physical ability and desire to win.

"Knowing that you have to out-train all your opponents to win just pushes you harder," Drake said. "If you don't out-work them, you're not going to be very successful."

Northwest Ford-Lincoln Mercury's

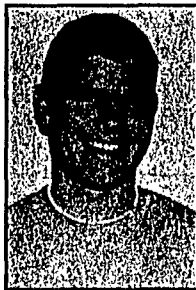
Spotlight Player

Valley was named the MIAA Player of the Week after scoring 28 points and grabbing 10 rebounds against Missouri Southern this weekend.



ARMCHAIR QUARTERBACK

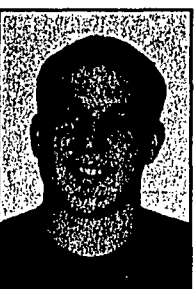
What did you think about the Chiefs' game?



"I was not surprised because they peaked too early in the season." Ben Karney UNDECIDED



"It was the most exciting thing of the whole year. It put their fans' heads back on straight." Erin Pacha UNDECIDED



"Trent Green put it best when he said that they could have a Super Bowl team even if the defense was mediocre." Casey Pflanz BUSINESS MANAGEMENT



"It was too bad, but I kind of saw it coming. Our defense sucks!" Mike Rust BUSINESS

Editor ponders how long one can ride on emotions

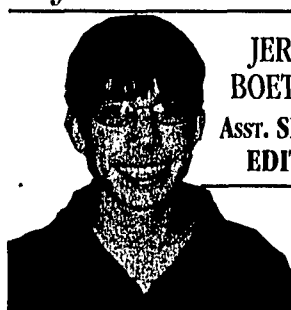
An emotional season for Brett Favre and the Green Bay Packers ended Sunday in Philadelphia. He ended an amazing season with one of the most questionable throws of his career.

Favre was being blitzed heavily by the Eagles' defense and he fell back and forced a pass off his left foot. The ball was overthrown and fell right into the hands of Eagles safety Brian Dawkins for an interception that would lead to a game-ending field goal for the Eagles. Thus, popping the question of how long can players who have recently lost a loved one thrive on that emotional high.

Favre lost his father, Irvin Favre, nearly four weeks ago to a heart attack, and Brett seemed to recover. He came out on an emotional high the next day to lead the Packers over the Raiders. The next week the Packers season was kept alive with help from the Arizona Cardinals. The Packers then won the Wild Card playoff game at home in overtime on an Al Harris interception return. Thus propelling many fans and critics to call the Packers, "Destiny's Team."

How fair can that be to the other teams? The Eagles had a sign posted up in their locker room that said if Brett Favre and the Packers are

J-Rome Is Burning



JEROME BOETTCHER
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

destiny's team, where does that leave them? Which makes a valid point—is it fair to give one team that title because of one unfortunate mishap?

The Eagles started off the season with an 0-2 record, but overcame it. They also overcame controversy surrounding their starting quarterback Donovan McNabb to end with the best record in the NFC and to head to their third straight NFC Championship game. Shouldn't they be "Destiny's Team" too? Don't they deserve just as much attention as the Packers? It's not fair to put all that pressure on one person or on one team. It gives the other teams something else to fight for. They want to show that one team is not destined for anything.

Can one person take that much pressure? It wasn't like the loved one

that passed away was a teammate; it was Favre's father. Is it fair to put that heavy burden on Favre? Favre himself said that he felt he could throw into double and triple coverage and nothing bad would happen to him. Did that go through his head as he threw the ball—that it would be okay because his dad was looking down on him? He had done it all postseason and for the past two games of the season. He was just able to lob the ball up there and somehow a receiver was there to haul it in. He made a bad call on his part and he should have taken the sack or thrown the ball away. But look at it in his shoes. You can't mess up because everyone is counting on you.

However, this isn't the first time this has happened to a player. Barry Bonds felt it last baseball season after his father, Bobby Bonds, died. He had an emotional interview with ESPN magazine in which he said he couldn't do it anymore. The Giants lost to the Marlins in the first round of the playoffs. The 2002 St. Louis Cardinals suffered two blows when both legendary announcer Jack Buck and pitcher Darryl Kile both died in less than one week. The Cardinals seemed to be "destined" to win it all. It wasn't to be. The Giants knocked them out of the

playoffs in the second round.

Michael Jordan lost his father James Jordan in 1993 when James was murdered. Jordan retired from professional basketball that year because he had nothing to play for anymore.

We sometimes forget that professional athletes are human, too. How long can you take it before you get emotionally tired? Brett Favre thought he could do it, but he had to be tired inside. There was so much pressure.

The Packers are destined to win? What if they don't win? Brett Favre and so many before him have felt the pressure to win after a loss of a loved one. I don't think it's right to put pressure on them when they lose. The easiest response is, "Well he couldn't do it because his dad died and he wasn't focused."

I have to admit that I hoped their magic would continue. I, too, was quick to say that the Packers were "destined" to win it all, but that's not right. I'm a hardcore Packers fan and I hated to see it end that way, but there's nothing I can do. I felt the same way about the 2002 Cardinals. However, sooner or later, you're going to get tired and you can't handle it. Favre's magical season ended on a mental mistake. But as all greats do, he's bound to come back.

FAN PLAN

	TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Northwest men's basketball			Pitt State 7:30 p.m.				Truman State 7:30 p.m.
Northwest women's basketball			Pitt State 5:30 p.m.				Truman State 5:30 p.m.
Northwest indoor track			Graceland University				
Maryville boys' basketball	Savannah Tourney TBA	Savannah Tourney TBA	Savannah Tourney TBA			Mid Buchanan 7 p.m.	
Maryville girls' basketball		Savannah Tourney TBA				Bishop Miege Tourney TBA	Bishop Miege Tourney TBA
Maryville wrestling			Plattsburg Tourney 10 a.m.				

■ GAME TO WATCH: The Spoofhounds' boys basketball team will most likely play in the championship game on Saturday night in Savannah. Their most likely opponent will be Hogan Prep from Kansas City. ■ Home games

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Squad to host preseason clinics

Northwest baseball coach Darin Loe will hold Bearcat Baseball clinics Feb. 7 and 8. The clinic is for boys 13 on up to seniors in high school. The clinic will go from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days.

The first clinic will mainly work on pitching and catching. The second clinic will work on hitting and defense. Cost is \$50 each and includes a clinic t-shirt. Contact the Bearcat Baseball office at 660-562-1352 for more information.

10 Deep Questions with: Erica Hatterman

About Hatterman: Erica is in her second year at Northwest and comes off the bench for the Bearcats.

Q. What was the last movie you watched?

A. Zoolander

Q. Who is your favorite democratic nominee?

A. I don't know who is up for it.

Q. Who is your best friend on the team?

A. All of them

Q. What CD do you have in your CD player right now?

A. Nickelback

Q. What's the funniest thing Coach Steinmeyer has ever said?

A. "She's like my college girlfriend. She's ugly, but she's mine."

Q. If not basketball, what sport would you play?

A. Volleyball or Softball

Q. Did you think the Chiefs were going to lose this weekend? I had a feeling.

A. Eagles

Q. What station do you listen to in Maryville?

A. 106.7 KZLX and 97.1 The 'Ville

Q. What's your favorite type of cookie?

A. Chocolate Chip

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2. Get more sleep
3. Study harder

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Your Man is back and ready to stroll

The power in my apartment has ceased to function. I have decided to bide my time writing my first column as the new Stroller. I am thankful for the snow, however, as I have had to place all of my perishable food-stuffs out on the roof to prevent them from spoiling.

Foolishly, I tried to fix the power malfunction myself. I began tinkering with the fuse box and I think I underwent temporary induced fibrillation when I got zapped into confusion by an exposed terminal. I was all jittery like, Curly hyped up on wild hyacinth. Plus, the metallic taste in my mouth was less than pleasant. It's funny that way, when you are meddling with electrical components and you get shocked, your synapses singe. For a nanosecond you think, "What the hell was that?" as if it were beyond all probability for that mishap to occur.

I can't believe I got picked to be the Stroller, as if I have nothing better to do than to perpetuate this sordid and checkered tradition. Oh well, I guess I did submit an essay. What the hell was I thinking?

Nah, I'm just joshin' ya. I take this opportunity very seriously. I believe I can be a voice of reason for this community, a



THE STROLLER

"beaconlight of hope" and a solid rock of integrity. I know that I can deliver sound wisdom that will benefit everyone because I, for one, believe everything I hear and read.

I believe this is a new era for the Stroller legacy. As an avid reader of *The Missourian*, I have been aware of the sad state of affairs the Stroller feature has recently experienced. The last Stroller just cried about this and cried about that. The column was like a one-man Amnesty International chapter.

I intend to introduce a new level of class and quality control. I walk through this town a lot, I see what goes on. Though

not a stroll, my mindless saunter is continuously accompanied by the static rustling of plastic bags I wrap my feet in to protect them against the elements. As I meander through town, I am amused by the small details that give Maryville its character. The small flock of birds that fly tirelessly in concentric circles over the square, or the old man that wears sweatpants and sweeps the parking lots looking for change. I step outside and breathe deep, my olfactory senses monopolized by the pungent stench of bovine feces. You can practically smell the culture.

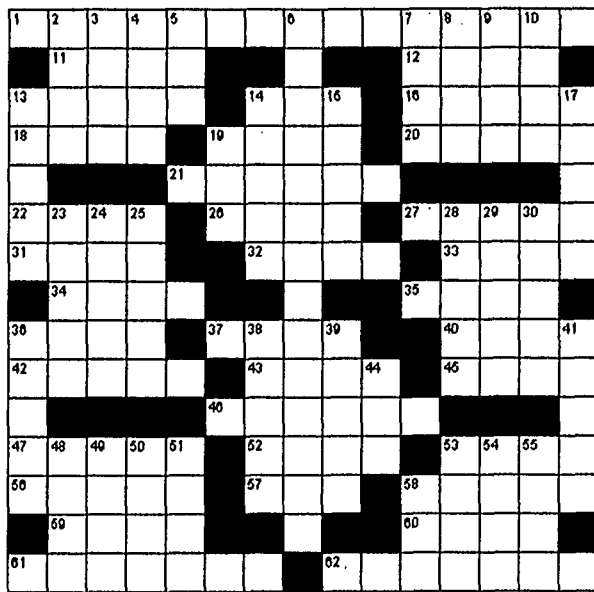
So here we go, one more trip around the sun. A whole year to set new goals and aspirations.

The dream tree is out there, its magical fruit just waiting to be picked.

Anyway, did you see the new season premiere of MTV's *Real World: San Diego*? The new cast is so boss! I am anxious to see how they get along. That indie/punk rocker Frankie looks like a real firecracker! I think she has spina bifida. Can you say drama?

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of *The Northwest Missourian*.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. W coast area
11. Go away!
12. S Ecuador city
13. Agitate
14. Intelligence
16. Culture media
18. Janet —, figure skater
19. Team
20. Pallid
21. Pertaining to a radius
22. Fail to hit
26. Mothers
27. Shady recess
31. Ridge over

DOWN

2. Wan
3. Keep away from
4. Wind instrument
5. Electrically charged atom
6. Having three dimensions
7. Shredded cabbage
8. Garment of fan
the eye
32. Shed tears
33. Drag
34. Sealed document
35. Former German capital
36. Legal charge
37. Aggregate
40. Club-like weapon
42. Without a head
43. Lame movement
45. Snorted
46. Lovers
47. Rail
52. Solely
53. Make indistinct
56. Refuge
57. Obese
58. Portals
59. Zest
60. Highly excited
61. Hats
62. Elderly person

cient Rome
9. Mythical Greek hero
10. Noxious weed
13. Ascend
14. Woman who has lost her husband
15. Tantalize
17. Growl angrily
19. Missile
23. Male name
24. S Quebec city
25. Hog
28. Parallelogram
29. Tritite
30. Unit of weight
36. Stagger
38. Indifferent
39. Refine metal
41. Pitchers
44. Peer
48. Tear down
49. Ardent
50. Game of chance
51. Engineer
53. Wet areas
54. Spoils or plunder
55. Exhort
58. Father

on the edge

Cow Facts:

■ There are more goats than cows in mountainous countries since goats can survive well by eating grass and other brush.

■ A herd of 60 cows is capable of producing a ton of milk in less than a day.

■ Cows have four stomachs. Often, when a calf is born, the farmer will make it swallow a magnet. This is to attract the various nails, staples, bits of wire, and so on, that the cow may ingest while grazing. This odd hunger is known as "hardware disease."

■ Most cows give more milk when they listen to music.

■ Most dairy cows give more milk when they are kept reasonably cool. Uselessknowledge.com

See answers below



Missourian Backtalk.

If you can't say anything nice... call us.

562-1980

Stress may promote healthy living

By STEPHANIE BAUERLEIN
THE DAILY AZTEC (U-WIRE)

While many consider stress in its entirety to be a negative thing, small amounts of what some describe as America's number one health problem may be a healthy thing.

According to an article from Brigham Young University at Idaho, some stress and anxiety can be beneficial to a person. Anxiety disorder is the most common mental health issue in the country, with more than 19 million adults being affected, the article said.

Yet, despite all the problems large amounts of stress can cause, some believe it can be a positive thing to have in one's life. For a college student, stress can be found at school, the workplace, within the family, social settings and much more. If dealt with properly, the article said, stress can help solve problems, and increase efficiency by acting as a motivating factor.

The American Institute of Stress Web site, www.stress.org, said just as stress can cause disease, it is plausible there are good stresses that can

promote wellness. It also said increased amounts of stress can cause an increase in productivity, but only up to a certain point. Beyond that, the institute said the effects of stress depend on how it is managed, and it is up to each individual to find the amount of stress that allows optimal performance.

Psychology junior Danielle Rush said not having enough time stresses her out. Rush said it is hard to balance going out with her friends and getting everything done on time and done well.

"Stress has such a positive effect on me in that I'll focus on work, but then afterward I'm dead," she said. "It takes so much out of me physically. Stress motivates me to get on the ball, and when I'm done, I'm relieved."

Multiple-subject teaching graduate student Lauren Costanzo said having a lot of things to do in a small amount of time, such as working being a full-time student, stresses her out. To relieve stress, Costanzo said she likes to get massages and pedicures.

"Stress is a negative thing for me because I complain about it and it

puts me in a bad mood," she said. "I think it can be a positive thing for some people, but stress does not help me."

Money is what causes stress for psychology senior Michael Molina, specifically not having enough for what he needs. He said he knows what he wants as well as what he can afford, and having to compromise and make sacrifices is stressful.

"To deal with stress I try to be humble," Molina said. "I work out to keep my mind off the things I need, and to not worry about it because along the way I'll find it somewhere or another."

"Stress is a positive thing in that it pushes you and it makes you develop, but I think if it's not managed well it can be a negative thing - management is key."

There are countless ways to deal with stress, and the BYU article suggests relaxation, prayer and meditation as just a few of the techniques.

San Diego State students can visit Counseling and Psychological Services for more information or assistance in dealing with stress.

Upcoming Concerts

Kansas City

Jan. 22 Trick Pony
Beaumont Club

Jan. 24 Three Dog Night
Midland Theatre

Des Moines

Jan. 25 "Sesame Street Live"
Kemper Arena

Jan. 26 Simple Plan/MxPx
Beaumont Club

Omaha

Jan. 17 Joanna Connor
Blues on the Grand

Jan. 18 Ani DiFranco
Hoyt Sherman Theatre

Jan. 23 "Dragon Tales Live"
Veterans Memorial Auditorium

Feb. 21 Sting
Civic Center

Jan. 22 Randy McAllister
Murphy's Lounge

Jan. 25 Lee Rocker
Murphy's Lounge

Jan. 28 Jake Bellows
Sokol Underground

Jan. 29 "Sesame Street Live"
Qwest Center

Feb. 6 Pink Martini
Orpheum Theatre

For more information on upcoming events check out www.pollstar.com

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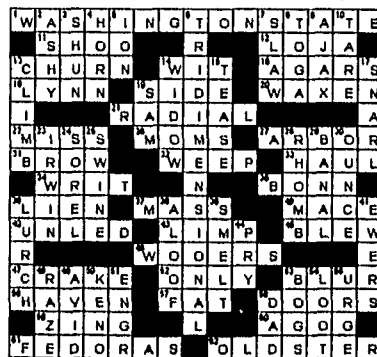
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